12/15/69

Dear Mary,

Our sincere thanks for your letter of the 10th and card inthe same mail, and the wlecome and helpful enclosures. You are the only one to have shown any understanding of why I use return-address stickers when they come off. It is my awful typing. There is a classic case, of an envelope addressed to gary and returned. The typos were unbelievable! So, because I am always in such haste (and if you come and see the work I've already researched and the current pressures other than financial you'd see this is not for fancied reasons), I just do not read what I've typed....Gary got quite a kick out of that envelope. I was not home. Lil, who also enjoyed it, just addressed an new envelope and sent the whole, disgraceful mess to him.

Our financial condition will improve slightly after the first of the year, when Lil goes back to work for a week for four months or so. But please believe me, your $10.00 check is 2½ times the cash I have today! Aside from cigars, on which I've cut down heavily, we buy nothing not essential and haven't even made what others would consider essential purchases, like replacing this really very old typewriter. In an emergency I can use my excellent portable, but it will not work in my (typist's) desk, which is all set up. After the first, when there will be a small income, I'll haunt the local auction weekly. They sometimes have okay ones. I want elite type to save time and paper-changing and space, otherwise I'd use the old Royal electric Lil wore out. I never touch her new (threeyears old) one. Too precious, and I pound. But, we'll make it, and the help you send is much appreciated.

Lil stays so busy she never has time for Xmas cards. She is now getting over a strep throat, indexing COUP II at the same time. By the way, all of our work is indexed, and Paul has copies of the unpublished index. A printer's error kept it out of WWII and Canyon out of C in MO. That index includes the very large appendix that was not published and that Paul also has. COUP and the two POST MORTEMs (my next writing will be the third of that series) are already carded but the indexes are not typed.

Unless I'm writing or in some kind of crisis or away, I generally take care of mail daily. I'll tell Paul you want COUP, and I'll asume this means the entire thing. He has a copy of the first part of his own.

I do not have and would appreciate a copy of "Almenek". I have a CD on Thorpe only, but I've asked the Archives on the whole list. I'll postpone that investigation until I heard from you and the Archives....I have everything cited in COUP, as I do with all my work, if any of the documents ever interest you... The copy of Curry is apparently delayed by the holiday rush. I'm sending it to Bernabei, who cannot get one in Canada...Thanks alsoxfor PR's home address... ...If there is any background on "Almenek" not in it, I'd appreciate knowing it, especially what will help evaluate its dependability or "Wayne Fairchild's".

Again, out thanks for your thoughtfulness and kindness. Hope you have a fine holiday.

Sincerely,